GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1684
ANSWERED ON:11.03.2008
SETTING UP OF SOUTH ASIAN UNIVERSITY
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any Inter Governmental Steering Committee for setting up of South Asian Universities in the country including in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the said Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations made by the said Committee;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to set up the said university in the Country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. D. PURANDESWARI)

(a) to (e): Yes, Sir. The decision to establish the South Asian University in India was taken at the 14 SAARC Summit and an Inter-Governmental Agreement for establishing South Asian University has been signed. Subsequently, an Inter Governmental Steering Committee was set up to finalize the modalities for operationalisation of the University. The Inter Governmental Steering Committee at its first meeting in May 2007 had agreed to establish a Project Office for the main campus of the University. This Office will be responsible for acquisition of land, overseeing construction, drawing up Charter, Byelaws, business plans etc. of the South Asian University. It was agreed that the Project Office will be headed by an interim CEO from the host country with appropriate academic and administrative credentials and experience of running a large institution/university. The Government has already initiated action in this regard.